

Welcome to the Garden Club of Wilmington's 2021-2022 Annual Meeting. Welcome, especially to our Advisory Committee members, Chris Strand, and Dr. Richard Lighty and his wife, Sally, as well as our Floral fancy judges Don DeWees and Cory Porter. We're so glad that you could join us today. A big thank you to Leslie and Cory Porter for hosting us today. I know this isn't a small undertaking and we greatly appreciate your hospitality.

Despite the continuing Covid pandemic, we have had many successes this year. We met in person all but two months, including a fantastic joint meeting at Winterthur with the Garden Club of Philadelphia. Our committees held had successful plants sales, interesting workshops, wonderful flower and photography shows including a spectacular botanical arts exhibit in October, a Visiting Gardens trip to Washington, and a Weed Wrangle with the Friends of Wilmington Parks and Delaware State Parks. And we finally completed the merger between the two entities of our club, creating a single 501C3. This is an effort that has been ten years in the making. We have many ideas for new community projects, some of which we hope to start this summer.

We have six new members, who I would like to introduce. I encourage everyone to meet them after the awards presentations. I would appreciate it if the new members would stand as I introduce you.

Louise Barton

Nina Draper  
Janice Dugan  
Lisa Giacco  
Cynthia Hewitt  
Carol Taylor

Welcome to all of you.

A few housekeeping items before we get to the election of officers. First, we are circulating a sign-up sheet indicating interest in two community projects we hope to start this summer. If you are interested in volunteering at Gibraltar Gardens or in the new Children's Garden at Ronald McDonald House, please add your name and we will be in touch when we have more details.

Also, after you take advantage of the beautiful Plant Sale, be sure to pick up your gift from the Executive Committee. This year we're giving members a gift of *Phlox divaricata* "Blue Moon," which was the GCA's Freeman Medal winner this year. It was proposed by Sallie Anderson of Providence Garden Club in our zone.

I want to remind everyone that our fall Flower Show will be held in September, at our cocktail party at Pam Biddle's home. Barbara Cairns has the show schedule available for you so that you can plan your entries over the summer.

Finally, don't forget the deadline for dues payment is June 30<sup>th</sup>. You can pay on the website with a service fee or by sending a check to the Post Office Box. Also, it's very important that you return the survey sent to you last week so you can choose which committees you're on. If you don't return the survey, you will be assigned to committees. The deadline for that is also June 30<sup>th</sup>.

It is very important that you go to the online directory to check your contact information. That is what will be printed in the directory over the summer. Don't rely on what was printed last year. You will be directed to the GCA website, and if you haven't signed in, you will need to. If you can't remember your password Wendy Russell will assist you.

2. Barbara Cooch, the chair of the Nominating Committee, will present the Nominating Committee's slate officers for the 2022-2023 year, for a vote by members.

3. Now to annual reports.

Treasurer	Grier Flinn
Conservation	Pam Biddle
Comm. Projects	Anna Biggs
Flower Show	Barbara Cooch
Founders Fund	Peggy Barton
Horticulture	Marion du Pont
Floral Design	Ann Ashley
Garden History	for LS

Judging	for Lynn Carbonell
Membership	Elizabeth Mellon
Photography	Mary Patterson
Plant Sale	Leslie Porter
Program	Betsy McCoy
Scholarship	Judith Spruance
Visiting Gardens	Mary Davis

Awards  
Laura Dupont.

Floral Fancies  
Sally DeWees